Appointment of Chairman for ITDC

5458. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) is functioning without regular appointment of the Chairman for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the non-appointment of the full time Chairman in the Board of ITDC has adversely affected the performance of the ITDC;

(d) if so, what is the percentage of profit earned by the ITDC has declined; and

(e) the likely time to be taken by Government to appoint a full time Chairman in the Board of ITDC so as to arrest the declining trend in overall performance of ITDC?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Regular appointment to the post of CMD, ITDC is under consideration of Government. Hotel industry is passing through a recessionary phase. This has affected the profitability of ITDC which has shwon a declining trend from positive in 1997-98 to negative in 1999-2000.

Revival of Indian Tourism Industry

5459. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the revival plan of tourism industry at National level to generate more opportunities or revenue aspects;

(b) whether Government has made any assessment on lack of tourism infrastructure facilities viz., hotels, motels, transportation for foreign tourists;

(c) whether financial restructuring forms a part of revival plan and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government will consider and accept the proposals of private sectors keeping in view of the infrastructure in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): (a) Ministry of Tourism has set up an Investment Cell

in August 1995 to undertake activities in order to promote infrastructure facility in the country. The endeavour of the Government is to achieve sustained growth of tourist facilities in the private sector and to ensure high standards of quality in their services.

(b) According to Accommodation Assessment Study conducted by Ministry of Tourism in 30 centres, the room demand by the year 2005 is projected to be 1.25 lakhs rooms.

(c) and (d) Tourism has been given the status of the industry and several incentives have been made available both by the Centraland Slate Governments.

These incentives are:—

- Interest subsidy on hotel loans
- Fiscal incentives under income tax Act
- Import of special items under concessional custom duty/EPCG scheme etc.

IITTM Branch at Hyderabad

5460. DR.Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) wheather Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to help the State in getting a branch of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management at Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter to encourage tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Because of the resource constraints the Government has advised the State Government to set up the Chapter under its own Plan on the pattern of Kerala Institute of Tourism and travel Studies (KITTS).

Arrival ot tourists in Assam

5461. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists v/ho visited Assam during the last tnree years; and

(b) the details of foreign exchange earned from this State during this period?